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### ***Solving The Problem Of CIA***

It is to be hoped President Eisenhower will be able to calm down congressional irritation over the Central Intelligence Agency, which, under Allen Dulles, brother of the Secretary of State, is responsible for secretly obtaining information abroad.

For a long time Congress has felt the agency also is too secretive, too hush-hush. And now the Senate Rules Committee has favorably reported a bill by Senator Mike Mansfield, Montana's Democratic gift to the Senate, for the appointment of a "watchdog committee."

This is a situation that should be handled with cool, common sense and not with emotion running high. The Rules Committee claims that secrecy "now beclouds everything about CIA, its cost, its personnel, its efficiency, its failures. An aura of superiority has been built up around it. It is freed from practically every form of congressional review"; in brief, it is a law unto itself, responsible to no one but the President and, it is presumed, the Secretary of State.

That any agency should function without responsibility to Congress—and so to the sovereign people—goes without constitutional principles. Yet the world we live in demands some espionage and counter-espionage, new and distasteful as this may seem to those who have not quite adjusted to the grim dictates of H-bombs and intercontinental bombers. Since the nation can hardly take a blind chance on survival, there must be compromise between ideals and reality.

The Joint Atomic Energy Commission offers some guidance here. At least so long as atomic processes were an American monopoly, it also was desirable to maintain secrecy even when Congress was asked to appropriate billions. The joint committee met this dilemma. Because adequate information was given to a limited number of trusted senators and representatives, Congress was able to vote funds with a sense of responsibility, and it was possible at the same time to avoid airing all the activities of the AEC in debate on Capitol Hill. Why cannot this formula be fully applied to CIA?

Secrecy so complete that it recognizes no responsibility to Congress is not consistent with popular government. But democracy is not so inflexible that it cannot solve a problem such as that of CIA with minimum risk. And the problem should be sensibly worked out because failure to do so could build up a resentment which might be casting prudence and wisdom to the winds.

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